



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CAREX CRAWEI **CRAW'S SEDGE**

Craw's Sedge is a grass-like perennial with a single or several stems, 10-30 cm tall, that arise from creeping rhizomes. The flat leaves, 1-3 mm wide, are mainly clustered near the base of the plant. 15-50 female flowers are clustered in cylindrical spikes and are 1-2 cm long. Male flowers are clustered together in the uppermost spike. Scales subtending the perigynia are shorter and narrower than the perigynia and are brown and membranous with a pale, thickened midvein. Elliptic, glabrous perigynia are pale green to light brown, often with reddish speckles, and 2-4 mm long; nearly flat on the back but swollen on the bottom. Each perigynium has 3 stigmas, and a 3-sided achene. Fruit matures in July.

The combination of elongate, cylindrical spikes, a terminal male spike, and glabrous perigynia with 3 stigmas help to distinguish this species of CAREX. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.